🎨Artist Profile

Ajit Vikram Datta (1935–2022)

A Life Dedicated to Art and Cultural Expression

Ajit Vikram Datta, born in 1935 in Faridpur (now Bangladesh), belongs to a generation of artists shaped by transition, displacement, and the evolving cultural identity of Bengal. His artistic journey began with formal training at the Indian College of Arts, Calcutta, where he graduated with distinction, securing first place in first class.

Over the decades, Datta established himself as a committed and versatile artist, participating in major national exhibitions including those at the Akademi of Fine Arts, Lalit Kala Akademi, and Bharat Bhavan. His work was not confined to regional platforms; it reached international audiences through exhibitions at prestigious venues such as Mall Galleries in London, the World Trade Centre in Stockholm, and the United Nations Headquarters in New York during the Millennium Art Exhibition in 2000.

A regular participant in exhibitions organized by the Canvas Artists' Circle of Calcutta, his presence was felt across cities including New Delhi, Port Blair, Bolpur, and Chittaranjan. His engagement with artistic communities extended through workshops conducted in collaboration with institutions like Max Mueller Bhavan and the Government of West Bengal.

Recognized for his lifelong contribution to art, Datta was honoured by A.I.F.A.C.S., New Delhi as a **Veteran Artist of India**. His works have been collected by the Government of West Bengal, the National Memorial in Port Blair, and numerous private collectors in India and abroad.

Beyond painting, Datta contributed intellectually to the art world as a critic for *Masic Basumati* and *Charukala*, and as a writer in Bengali journals. His voice reflected both artistic sensitivity and cultural awareness.

Ajit Vikram Datta's legacy lies not only in exhibitions and accolades but in his consistent dedication to artistic practice, community engagement, and cultural documentation — making him a significant figure in Bengal's visual art landscape.

AJIT BIKRAM DATTA

(Artist signature often appears as "Vikram")

Born: 1 November 1934
Place of Birth: Faridpur, Bengal *(present-day Bangladesh)*
Died: 21 May 2022
Residence: Block Q, Flat 16, Housing Estate, 40/1 Tangra Road, Kolkata – 700015, West Bengal, India

Artist Profile

Ajit Bikram Datta was a Bengali painter, cultural participant, writer, government employee, and exhibiting artist associated with post-Independence artistic movements in eastern India.

His works explored:

- Human struggle
- Collective memory
- Folk and devotional imagery
- Symbolic human forms
- Social tension
- Spiritual ambiguity
- Theatre-like compositions
- Psychological and expressionist figurations

Recurring visual motifs include:

- Musicians and devotional figures
- Crowded human assemblages
- Distorted and expressive anatomy
- Masks and symbolic faces
- Women as archetypal presences
- Social gatherings
- Rural and ritual memory
- Existential themes

Many surviving works bear the signature:

“Vikram”

Education

Graduated from:

Indian College of Arts, Calcutta

Completed training securing **First Class** and recorded as obtaining **First Position**.

National Exhibition Participation

- All India Exhibition, Akademi of Fine Arts, Calcutta
- Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal
- National Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- Regional Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi (Eastern Region)
- State Exhibition, Government of West Bengal
- Veteran Artists Exhibition, A.I.F.A.C.S., New Delhi

International Participation

- Mall Galleries, London
- World Trade Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
- Worldwide Millennium Painting Competition Exhibition
- United Nations Headquarters, New York
- Millennium Art Exhibition: **“Our World in the Year 2000”**
  July–August 2000

Regular / Group Participation

Canvas Artists’ Circle of Calcutta exhibitions:

- Calcutta
- New Delhi
- Port Blair
- Bolpur
- Chittaranjan

Painter forums and exhibitions:

- Calcutta
- Midnapur
- Agartala
- Siliguri

Workshops / Cultural Activities

Associated with programmes organised by:

- Government of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Port Blair
- Max Mueller Bhavan, Calcutta
- Government of West Bengal Youth Department
- Democratic Writers’ and Artists’ Association, Calcutta

Recognition

Honoured by:

A.I.F.A.C.S., New Delhi
as **Veteran Artist of India**

Received support under Veteran Artist programme and remained active in artistic practice during later years.

Collections

Works recorded in:

- Government of West Bengal collections
- National Memorial, Port Blair
- Private collections in India
- Private collections abroad

Writer and Cultural Contributor

Worked as:

- Critic for **Masik Basumati**, Calcutta
- Contributor to **Charukala** art journal
- Contributor to Bengali journals and cultural publications

Government Service

Served under the **Government of India**

- Entered service: **21 January 1959**
- Retired: **31 October 1992**
- Last recorded position: **Head Clerk**
- Total qualifying service: **33 years, 9 months, 9 days**

Documentary Archive Preserved

The surviving archive presently includes:

Artwork Material

- Original paintings
- Photographic reproductions
- Exhibition documentation
- Signed works (“Vikram”)

Documentary Records

- Lalit Kala Akademi artist identity card
- Exhibition biodata sheets
- A.I.F.A.C.S. correspondence
- Cultural invitations

- Exhibition photographs
- Artist portraits
- Personal papers and archival documents

Legacy Statement

Ajit Bikram Datta belonged to a generation of artists who balanced livelihood, government service, cultural participation, and continuous artistic practice.

His archive preserves paintings, exhibition records, photographs, correspondence, identity documents, and personal papers documenting a lifetime devoted to visual expression and cultural memory.